

## NOTES AND NEWS.

THE PLATE accompanying the present number of 'The Auk' illustrates two species of Screech Owl from Mexico, described by Mr. William Brewster in 'The Auk' for January, 1888 (Vol. V, pp. 87, 88), and now for the first time figured. Both species are based on specimens collected by Mr. R. R. McLeod in the Province of Chihuahua.

DR. JOHN I. NORTHPROP, an Associate Member of the A. O. U., and a Fellow in Geology at the School of Mines, Columbia College, died June 26, 1891, at the age of twenty-nine years. His tragic ending was peculiarly sad, his death resulting from burns caused by an explosion of alcohol in the cellar of the School of Mines on the day preceding his death. Dr. Northrop was born in New York City, Oct. 12, 1861. He received his early education at the Columbia Grammar School, whence he entered the Columbia College School of Mines in 1880, graduating in 1884 with the degree of a Mining Engineer, and in 1887, after a further course of study, received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. He then, as Fellow in Geology at the School of Mines, became Assistant to Prof. J. S. Newberry. His special line of study, however, was in the line of Zoölogy, and he had recently received leave of absence from his college duties to pursue a special course of study abroad with a view to promotion to a higher position, which had already been offered him.

About a year preceding his death he married Miss Rich of the Normal School of New York City, and their wedding trip was a visit to the Bahamas to collect and study the fauna and flora of these islands. Both also attended the A. O. U. meeting held last year in Washington. Dr. Northrop's paper on the birds of Andros Island, read before the Union and afterwards published in 'The Auk' (Vol. VIII, pp. 64-80, with a colored plate of *Icterus northropi*), being one of the incidental results of the trip. He also read, in October, 1890, a paper before the New York Academy of Sciences on the Geology of Andros Island (Trans. N. Y. Acad. Sci., X, pp. 4-23), and had in manuscript at the time of his death several extended papers on the invertebrates of the Bahamas, to which he gave special attention. Dr. Northrop gave promise of eminence in his chosen field, and his bright prospects render his untimely death exceptionally sad, and a severe shock to his many scientific and other friends to whom he had personally endeared himself.

AUGUST VON PELZELN, an Honorary Member of the A. O. U., died at Vienna, Sept. 2, 1891, at the age of 67 years. A notice of the life and works of this long-eminent German ornithologist is necessarily deferred till a later number of 'The Auk.'

THE NINTH CONGRESS of the American Ornithologists' Union will be held at the American Museum of Natural History, New York City, November 17-19, 1891. It is hoped that the regular increase in attendance

of both Active and Associate Members shown at previous meetings will be sustained at the present reunion. The time devoted to routine business will be reduced to the minimum, and the presentation and discussion of scientific papers be made the object of the meeting. It is requested that all members having papers to present send the titles of the same to the Secretary, Mr. John H. Sage, Portland, Conn., at least one week prior to the date on which the Congress convenes. This will permit of the proper arrangement of subjects and preparation of a programme, a plan which has proved to be of great utility and convenience.

Special features of the meeting will be an exhibition of the original drawings made by Wolf to illustrate Mr. Elliot's sumptuous ornithological works, and a stereopticon exhibition of lantern slides portraying living birds. The co-operation of members in adding to the success of this last-named exhibit is earnestly requested. Should any member having such slides be unable to attend the meeting, he will confer a favor by forwarding them, with an explanation of their character, or the manner in which the pictures were taken, to the President, Mr. D. G. Elliot, American Museum of Natural History, New York City. They will be promptly returned at the close of the session.

THE SECOND International Ornithological Congress, held at Budapest, May 17-27, 1891, was attended by about two hundred ornithologists, mostly from Germany, Austria, and Hungary. England had two representatives and America two, the latter being Dr. Arthur P. Chadbourne and Dr. Louis B. Bishop, Dr. Chadbourne being the accredited delegate of the A. O. U. to the Congress.

The work of the Congress was divided into four sections: (1) Systematic Ornithology and Avian Anatomy; (2) Avi-Geography and Migration; (3) Biology and Oölogy; (4) Economic Ornithology. The special reports and communications to the different sections will soon be published, a number of them having already appeared.

A Code of Rules for Zoölogical Nomenclature, essentially based on the A. O. U. Code of 1886, caused considerable discussion, but was finally adopted, and henceforth "a local race which differs so much in color, form, or proportions, that it cannot be surely identified without material for comparison or a knowledge of the locality where the specimen was found, will *not* be described as a species under a binomial name, but as a subspecies, *by the addition of a third name* to that of the species from which it was derived." The abbreviation '*var.*' is only to be used for 'freaks,' while '*monstr.*' (monstrosity) will be used to indicate malformation in structure.

After adjournment the Hungarian Committee arranged several extended excursions to enable those who could do so to see the most characteristic and interesting local fauna.

LITTLE, BROWN, AND COMPANY, Boston, are about to publish a popular handbook of the ornithology of the United States and Canada, by Mr. Montague Chamberlain, based on Nuttall's well-known 'Manual.' It will

form two octavo volumes, with colored frontispieces and numerous illustrations in the text. The publishers' announcement states that it will retain everything of value in the original work, including all of Nuttall's delightful descriptions of bird-life, only the obsolete or erroneous portions being omitted. It will include also an account of all of the species and subspecies described since Nuttall wrote, bringing the general subject down to date, not only in this respect, but as regards nomenclature and descriptions, all of the latter being rewritten by Mr. Chamberlain, in simple, well-known and untechnical terms. The specimen pages before us give promise of a very attractive and useful handbook, filling a place of late unoccupied by any work of similar scope.

MR. P. L. JOUY, so well known for his ornithological work in Japan, sailed on October 1 for Mexico, to collect birds and mammals for the U. S. National Museum. His special field for the present will be in the Province of San Luis Potosi, which, so far as thorough field work is concerned, is practically new and very inviting ground. The results of Mr. Jouy's labors will hence be anticipated with interest.

DR. G. BAUR, of Clark University, Worcester, Mass., and Mr. C. J. Adams of Champaign, Ill., have just returned from a three months' exploration of the fauna and flora of the Galapagos Islands. On reaching Chatham Island—the only one of the group that can be said to be inhabited—a sloop was chartered and each of the islands visited. Special attention was given to the bird life, resulting in a collection of some 600 bird skins and numerous specimens in spirits. Among the species secured is a good series of the rare *Creagrus furcatus*, and several others not hitherto known from the Galapagos. The collection cannot fail to throw much light upon the ornithology of this peculiarly interesting group of islands.

THE TREASURER of the A. O. U. received December 5, 1890, an envelope postmarked "Paris, November 23, 1890." It contained a National Bank bill of the value of \$5.00, but did not give the name of the sender. The envelope bore the imprint of "Hotel Continental, 3 Rue Castiglione." Will the sender please send his name to the Treasurer.